

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMS-01 OPR-01 A-01 SS-15 ABF-01 SP-02

EB-07 /039 W

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R 122151Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3031

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ARA/PAN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AFSP, AORG

SUBJ: REGIONAL OFFICE OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

A) PANAMA 0533 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 1)4008#(NOTAL)

1. IN PARTIAL JUSTIFICATION FOR RETAINING ALL PRESENTLY
OCCUPIED FAA LIVING QUARTERS IN CANAL ZONE, REGIONAL
FHWA OFFICE CITES SENSITIVITY DISPLAYED BY GOVERNMENT
OF COLOMBIA IN 1972 WHEN OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN CANAL
ZONE. IT STATES THAT THE THEN COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF
PUBLIC WORKS DID NOT WANT OFFICE LOCATED HERE BELIEVING
IT SHOWED PARTIALITY TOWARDS PANAMA. FHWA HERE SAYS
THE MINISTER'S VIEWS WERE SET FORTH IN A LETTER
ADDRESSED BY HIM TO THE ADMINISTRATOR, FHWA, WASHINGTON.
WE ALSO ARE TOLD THAT THE MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY
VISITED FHWA HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING
THE MATTER AND ONLY AFTER BEING INFORMED THAT THE
OFFICE WAS LOCATED IN THE CANAL ZONE RATHER THAN THE
REPUBLIC AND ITS EMPLOYEES RESIDENT IN THE ZONE
WAS HE SATISFIED THAT THE USG WAS NEUTRAL IN THE
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MATTER AND WAS NOT DISPLAYING PARTIALITY TOWARDS

PANAMA.

2. FHWA, CANAL ZONE, STATES IT HAS GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH COLOMBIA AND DOES NOT WANT TO ENDANGER IT BY HAVING SOME OF ITS EMPLOYEES FORCED TO RESIDE IN THE REPUBLIC. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THE MOVE WOULD BECOME NECESSARY IF FHWA RELINQUISHES ANY OF THE FAA QUARTERS ITS PERSONNEL NOW OCCUPY.

3. GOVERNOR PARKER OF THE CANAL ZONE HAS REQUESTED EMBASSY TO ASCERTAIN IF PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE ACCURATELY REFLECTS VIEWS OF GOC RE LOCATION OF FHWA OFFICE AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF ITS EMPLOYEES. AS EXPLAINED IN REFERENCE A, SOME PAN CANAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ALSO RESIDE IN FAA QUARTERS AND WITH THE LATTER NOW REQUIRING ADDITIONAL HOUSING FOR INCREASED FAA PERSONNEL, IT WISHES PAN CANAL TO RELINQUISH FOUR SETS OF QUARTERS. PAN CANAL BELIEVES THAT FAA SHOULD FIRST SEEK TO RECOUP HOUSING FROM FHWA.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S FURNISHING THE EMBASSY WITH A TELEGRAPHIC REPLY TO GOVERNOR PARKER'S QUERY WILL BE APPRECIATED.
JORDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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